

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 2 and 14.

Attachment: Replacement sheets with changes to FIGS. 2 and 14

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 5, 7 and 9-14. Claims 1-14 are pending. Claim 5 has been amended. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and in other applications.

The drawings stand objected to. The specification and Figures 2 and 14 have been amended so that the specification characters match the characters in the drawings. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, the objections to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 stands objected to for informalities. Claim 5 has been amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,339,562 ("Sakai"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites an image optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk having a semiconductor laser, a light receiving device, and a beam splitting device, the beam splitting device having "two first light receiving areas for detecting a push-pull signal and a second light receiving area for detecting a focus error signal." (Figs. 1, 5 and 9). Applicants respectfully submit that Sakai does not disclose or teach all of the limitations of claim 1.

Sakai is directed to a light receiving element receiving return light from an optical disk having main light receiving sections and sub light receiving sections. The Office Action contends that Figure 2 of Sakai discloses a beam splitting device having two first light receiving areas 2b, 2c for detecting a push-pull signal and a second light

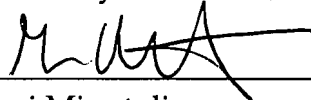
receiving area for detecting a focus error signal 2a. Applicants respectfully disagree. Sakai merely discloses a hologram 2 having three areas 2a, 2b, 2c. However, Sakai does not disclose or teach that the three areas 2a, 2b, 2c of the hologram are used for detecting a push-pull signal and a focus error signal. Therefore, Applicant respectfully request the rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 6 and 8 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 3 and 4 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable along with claim 1. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments